

News Release



June 5, 2001
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACTS:
Steve Capps, State Parks (916) 651-8750
Adam Gottlieb, Arts Council (916) 322-6588

State Parks and the Arts Council Kick Off New 'Arts in the Parks' Program *"Images of Crystal Cove" Presented This Week*

SACRAMENTO – The California Department of Parks and Recreation and the California Arts Council are announcing a new "Arts in the Parks" program that will provide park-goers the opportunity to enjoy art exhibits, concerts and dramatic performances while visiting various state parks throughout California.

The series will be kicked off officially Saturday, June 9, at a news conference and reception attended by State Parks Director Rusty at the Joan Irvine Smith Fine Arts gallery, 1550 South Coast Highway, Laguna Beach. The news conference begins at 2 p.m. and a reception will follow until 5 p.m.

"Our 'Arts in the Parks' program will bridge the natural beauty and important historical elements of our state park system with California's vibrant artistic talent," Areias said in announcing the program.

Barry Hessenius, Director of the California Arts Council, said, "The Arts Council is excited to partner with California State Parks in the 'Arts in the Parks' celebration. Both the arts and our state parks are treasures in our state. This partnership demonstrates how the arts are integrated into every facet of life in the Golden State." The California Arts Council promotes artistic awareness, participation, and expression in California through a variety of activities.

The "Arts in the Parks" series will begin with an exhibition of plein air painting, an out-of-doors method, at Crystal Cove State Park near Newport Beach. The exhibition, entitled "Images of Crystal Cove," will feature works by signature members of the Laguna Plein Air Painters Association.

(more)

In the late 1800s, Laguna Beach became a Mecca for artists employing the plein air method from the United States and Europe, due to the unique California light that is much like that of Giverny in France. Crystal Cove has remained a favorite location for artists from all over the world for over a century.

As part of the event, a “paint-off” contest will be held beginning Thursday at the historical district within Crystal Cove State Park. Competing artists will have the same amount of time and the same environment in which to complete a painting. Winners will be chosen Saturday, following the 2 p.m. news conference by State Parks Director Areias. Joan Irvine Smith Fine Arts, Inc. is offering a combined \$10,000 prize money for first, second and third place finishers in the contest.

Paintings from the competition will be displayed and available for purchase at the gallery through June 23, 2001. A portion of the proceeds from the paintings sold will benefit the Crystal Cove Conservancy, which was formed to support the preservation of Crystal Cove State Park’s significant natural and cultural resources, including the restoration and preservation of the historic district and its cottages.

Other “Arts in the Parks” events planned for June include a June 16 jazz concert featuring the Big Bad Voodoo Daddy at Benbow Lake State Recreation Area near Garberville; performances of the play “Foxfire” June 15-16 at the Woodland Opera House State Historic Park in Woodland; and Mt. Diablo’s “People in the Park – A Peak Experience,” featuring various art depicting Mt. Diablo that will run June through September. For more information on California State Parks Art in the Parks, call (800) 777-0369.

#